



STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR
GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS
2535 CAPITOL OAKS DRIVE, SUITE 300A, SACRAMENTO, CA 95833-2926
TELEPHONE: (916) 263-2113
FAX: (916) 263-2099
E-mail: geology@dca.ca.gov
Website: www.dca.ca.gov/geology



INFORMATION ON LICENSURE AS A REGISTERED GEOLOGIST

Geology refers to that science which treats of the earth in general; investigation of the earth's crust and the rocks and other materials that compose it; and the applied science of utilizing knowledge of the earth and its constituent rocks, minerals, liquids, gases and other materials for the benefit of mankind. (§7802, B&P Code*)

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS (§7841(b), B&P Code)

An applicant for licensure as a Registered Geologist must meet **one** of the following educational requirements:

- graduation with a major in a geology
- or
- completion of 30 semester units in geological science courses leading to a major in geology, of which at least 24 units are upper division or graduate courses.

Transcripts. The Board requires a transcript(s) of the applicant's college or university record(s). The applicant must request a certified copy of the transcript be mailed by each college or university to the Board's office. Transcript(s) submitted by the applicant are not accepted.

EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS (§7841(c), B&P Code)

An applicant for licensure as a Registered Geologist must have at least **seven** years of professional geological work that must include **either** a minimum of:

- three years of professional geological work under the supervision of a Registered Geologist or a Registered Civil or Petroleum Engineer. (Prior to July 1, 1973, professional geological work qualifies if it was under the supervision of a qualified geologist or a Registered Civil or Petroleum Engineer.)
- or
- five years of experience in responsible charge of professional geological work.

Experience Credit:

- Each year of undergraduate study in the geological sciences counts as one-half year of training up to a maximum of two years.
- Each year of graduate study or research counts as a year of training.
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- Teaching upper division or graduate courses in geological sciences is credited year-for-year provided the total teaching experience includes six semester units per semester or the equivalent if on the quarter system.

*Business and Professions Code

Experience Credit (continued)

- Credit for undergraduate study, graduate study and teaching, individually or in any combination, cannot exceed a total of four years towards meeting the requirements of at least seven years of professional geological work.
- Credit will not be given for professional geological work performed under the supervision of a Registered Geologist until the applicant has completed the educational requirements.
- Credit will not be given for professional geological work experience performed during the same time period when full-time graduate study or research is being done for which educational experience credit is allowed. Part-time graduate study or research and part-time professional geological work experience will be prorated and combined on a 12 calendar month basis.
- Unlicensed practice of geology will not be recognized as qualifying experience.

Supervisor References. The Board requires supervisor references as part of the application. The applicant must send a Supervisor Reference Form **and** a copy of his or her completed application to each supervisory reference verifying qualifying experience. Applications will not be processed unless the references are complete.

Professional Geological Work is work performed at a professional level rather than at a subprofessional or apprentice level and requires the application of scientific knowledge, principles and methods of geological problems through the exercise of individual initiative and judgment in investigating, measuring, interpreting and reporting on the physical phenomena of the earth. Implicit in this definition is the recognition of professional responsibility and integrity and the acknowledgement of minimal supervision.

Professional geological work specifically does **not** include:

- routine activities such as drafting, sampling, sample preparation, routine laboratory work, etc., where the elements of initiative, scientific judgment and decision making are lacking,
- activities that do not use scientific methods to process and interpret geologic data,
- soils engineering, soils sampling, soils testing or other activities in or related to the agricultural application of soils sciences, and
- mining, mining engineering or other engineering disciplines and/or other physical sciences wherein geological investigation, analysis and interpretation are minimal or lacking.

Responsible charge means a position whereby a person having individual control and direction of a geological project exercises individual initiative, skill and judgment in the investigation and interpretation of geological features, or the supervision of such projects. An individual can be considered to be in responsible charge even though not registered and working as a subordinate employee to a Registered Geologist or qualified geologist.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE COMBINED

Applicants must have the following combined academic experience and professional geological work:

<u>Education</u>	<u>Experience</u>
No Degree	7 Years
BS/BA	5 Years
MS/MA+	3 Years